

LIST OF PLATES.

Plate I. {	Proctotretus Chilensis.	Plate XVI. {	Rana Delalandii.
II. {	gracilis.	—	Mascariensis.
III. {	pictus.	Limnocharis fuscus.	
IV. {	Bibronii.	Cystignathus Georgianus.	
V. {	tenuis.	Borborocetes Bibronii.	
VI. {	signifer.	— Grayii.	
VII. {	nigromaculatus.	Pleurodema Darwinii.	
VIII. {	Fitzingerii.	— elegans.	
IX. {	cyanogaster.	— bufoninum.	
X. {	Kingii.	Leiuperus salarius.	
XI. {	Darwinii.	Pyxicephalus Americanus.	
XII. {	Weigmannii.	Alsodes monticola.	
XIII. {	multimaculatus.	Litoria glandulosa.	
XIV. {	pectinatus.	Batrachyla leptopus.	
XV. {	Diplolemus Darwinii.	Hylorina sylvatica.	
XVI. {	Bibronii.	Hyla agrestis.	
XVII. {	Amblyrynchus Demarllii.	— Vauterii.	
XVIII. {	Gymnodactylus Gaudichaudii.	Rhinoderma Darwinii.	
XIX. {	Naultinus Grayii.	Phryniscus nigricans.	
XX. {	Leiocephalus Grayii.	Uperodon ornatum.	
XXI. {	Centrura flagellifer.		
XXII. {	Ameiva longicauda.		
XXIII. {	Gerrhosaurus sepiiformis.		
XXIV. {	Cyclodus Casuarinae.		

ERRATA.—In Plate XIX. for "Hylonia" read "Hylorina."
for "vanterii" read "Vauterii."

P R E F A C E.

AMONGST the Reptiles and Amphibians obtained by Mr. Darwin, in the Voyage of the Beagle, there are several of great interest, not merely on account of their novelty as newly discovered species, of which there are nearly thirty, or as forming the types of genera not previously known, or of any remarkable peculiarity of form, structure, or habit, although in all these respects many of them are highly interesting; but more particularly as serving to establish or confirm several points connected with their geographical distribution.

From the structure of most of these animals and their consequent habits of life, circumscribed as they are for the most part in their locomotive powers, it might reasonably be predicated that they would, upon the whole, exhibit as distinct examples of restriction, with regard to their geographical boundaries, as any class of vertebrated animals; and that the intervention of seas and of mountains would be sufficient to limit the range of a species. Such is in fact usually the case; and not only is the same species not found in the Old and New Continents, but, with very few exceptions, not even on the opposite sides of the South American Continent, in which range Mr. Darwin's discoveries have principally been made. The occurrence, however, of *Bufo Chilensis* at Rio Janeiro and at Buenos Ayres on the eastern, and at Valparaiso and the Archipelago of Chonos on the western side of the continent, shows an extent of distribution exceedingly unusual if not absolutely unparalleled in this family. It is, however, still possible that further and more extended researches into the characters of the animals in question, and an examination of individuals from each locality at various ages, may prove that there are two species, which have been confounded with each other, and the anomaly may thus be removed.

But although the circumscribed range of a species may be accounted for by the reasons above mentioned, and others of a restrictive nature, it is not so easy to refer to any known or obvious cause the remarkable fact of a whole genus, consisting of numerous species, being thus geographically limited. Yet this is a